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DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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February 16, 1948

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Dept. of Genetics  
College of Agriculture  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin


Dear Josh:

Sorry not to have written sooner about the yeast precipitins. Sadly enough, extracts of yeast grown in plain molasses have consistently given a small but definite precipitate when mixed with egg albumin(Ea) solution. Considerably larger precipitates were obtained with Ea and extracts of yeast grown in the presence of Ea but the statement that this substantiates Fox and Ward certainly does not seem indicated at the moment. Levin is now busy for a month in Obstetrics but when he finishes will try using as an antigen one of several proteins which did not react at all with our control yeast extract (e.g. duck's egg albumin, serum albumin, con egg albumin, etc.). The precipitation of the Ea with control yeast extracts is curious and is possibly due to the formation of non-specific protein-protein insoluble complexes.

I recently corresponded with Fox and think that he probably has gotten specific precipitin formation as he has claimed; but certainly there is further need for independent confirmation. Perhaps you are the one to fill this need.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Herman N. Eisen

HNE:GEE